



# News Release

**For immediate release:** March 18, 2016

(16-028)

Contact: [Sharon Moysiuk](#), Strategic Communications Office 360-236-4074

## **Physician's license suspended due to prescribing practices in Oklahoma**

**OLYMPIA** -- The Medical Quality Assurance Commission suspended the medical license of physician George B. Howell (MD00036185) on March 17, pending further proceedings. Howell's last known address was in Kansas, and he is not believed to be practicing in Washington.

The charges state that the Oklahoma State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision revoked Howell's medical license in August 2015. The revocation is based on Howell's prescribing excessive quantities of controlled substances that resulted in at least four patient deaths. Howell's ability to automatically renew his Washington State medical license poses an unreasonably high risk of imminent harm to patients and the public.

Howell cannot practice as a physician in Washington until the charges are resolved. He has 20 days to respond to these charges and request a hearing.

Legal documents on this case are available online by clicking the link to "[Provider Credential Search](#)" on the [Department of Health website](#); copies can also be requested by calling 360-236-4700. Anyone who believes a health care provider acted unprofessionally is encouraged to call that number to report their complaint.

The Medical Quality Assurance Commission promotes patient safety and enhances the integrity of the profession through licensing, rule-making, discipline, and education. Learn more about the commission: [doh.wa.gov/medical](http://doh.wa.gov/medical) and follow the Medical Commission on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)

###